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United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Great Plains Regional Office
115 Fourth Avenue S.E.
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401



IN REPLY REFER TO
Natural Resources
MC-301

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Mr. Jeffery S. Steinberg,
Deputy Chief, Commercial Wireless Division
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20054

03-187

Dear Mr. Steinberg,

This is in response to the Notice of Inquiry on the effects of communications towers on migratory birds and consultation with Indian tribes. We are in favor of finding sound methods to identify and reduce migratory bird collisions with communications towers and consulting with the tribes on this issue.

As you know, some tribes use migratory birds for religious ceremonies. Presently, there is no mechanism to disseminate these birds similar to that used for eagle parts by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. We recognize that the issuance of permits for possession of migratory birds is outside the scope of your jurisdiction. However, the birds collected during your authorized studies should be made available to interested tribes and Native Americans. We believe this could be done through a cooperative effort with the responsible Federal Agencies and should be considered in the development of study protocols.

Please let us know if we could be of assistance. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Diane Mann Klager, Wildlife Biologist, at (605) 226-7621.

Sincerely,

Alice A. Harwood

ACTING Regional Director

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